

# middle TOWN NEWS letter

## August 2021

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### New at the Mineral Springs Park!



Come see the new plantings of attractive flowering native shrubs on the bank of the North Brook outside the Mineral Springs Park, which provide riverbank stabilization in an area scarred by flooding in recent years. Hilary Solomon at the Poultney Mettowee Natural Resource Conservation District and Sadie Brown from Champlain Valley Native Plant Restoration Nursery led the project. Funds for the implementation and for a portion of the plants for the project were donated by Pur Projet, international non-profit dedicated to improving agricultural practices and restoring forests, soils, biodiversity, and watersheds (<https://www.purprojet.com>). The plants include native serviceberry, red osier dogwood, nannyberry, steplebush, northern bush honeysuckle and blue flag iris. More nannyberry viburnums, which grow into 12-foot bushes, will be planted elsewhere in the park.

The springhouse sports a new slate roof from Greenstone Slate in Poultney, installed this spring by Dick and Tel Gray. The installation uses the Slate Tec system with a plastic underlayment and thinner, shorter slates to reduce the total weight of the roof by a third. A large, dying ash tree has been taken

down by Barry and Jeffrey Spear, opening up the area in front of the spring house to welcome sunlight. Glen Moyer will transform the timber into firewood.

When you visit:

- Bring a picnic to share with friends and family!
- Bring your dog but be sure to keep it under control and to clean up after it.
- Check out the history panels in the park. They briefly tell the story of the discovery and development of the Middletown Healing Springs in 1868, the construction and demise of the huge Montvert Hotel built nearby in 1871, and the creation of the Mineral Springs Park in 1969.
- Notice the Elisha Leffingwell Tin Shop, donated by Alice Haynes Hoisington and moved to the park from its original location on East Street in 1991.

The Mineral Springs Park is open dawn to dusk, year-round, for enjoyment of history and nature. It is owned and maintained by the Historical Society.

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### Check out a Pass from the Library

Available for three-day check out to Middletown Springs residents or taxpayers.

- [American Precision Museum](#): Free Family Pass.
- [ECHO Leahy Center for Lake Champlain](#): \$7 admission per person for up to four people.
- [Shelburne Farms Pass](#): Free admission for two adults and their children, includes walking trails and Children's Farmyard.
- [Vermont Historic Sites Pass](#): Free admission.
- [Vermont Historical Society Museum Pass](#): Free admission to the Museum in Montpelier.
- [Vermont State Park Pass](#): Free admission to Day Use Areas for up to eight people in one vehicle.

Visit individual websites for current schedules and any covid-19 requirements before your visit.

## Town-wide Scavenger Hunt 2021

for adults, teens, or family teams

32 prompts invite you to gather items, find places, discover/remember facts or town history, and take a few snapshots! You can find all these answers without using the internet - in fact, the idea is for you to have fun getting out and about in Middletown Springs. Team up with family or friends!

Complete as many as you can and return this sheet to the library for a prize and a standing ovation! Answer 20 or more to be entered to win the grand prize of a simple-to-manuever kite with a tail AND an ice cream sundae party!!!

The scavenger list is available at the library on cardstock or online as a [printable pdf](#). The hunt runs July 1 - August 16. There are teams out there already working on their lists but there is plenty of time to catch up.

Remember: all of these can be answered without the internet. The Historical Society has open hours every Sunday from 2-4pm. There are several town history books in the Library. Some of your neighbors have long memories. Ask a Librarian if a question is unclear.

Good luck and have fun!

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## A Note from the Town Treasurer

Property Tax Bills for the new fiscal year 2021/22 have been mailed. If you have not received your bill by mid-August, please contact the Town Treasurer at [mtstreasurer@vermontel.net](mailto:mtstreasurer@vermontel.net) and verify your name, and mailing address.

### Save Your Tax Bill For Future Reference.

Homestead rebate notices have been sent by the State. If you have **Homestead Declaration/Rebate** questions – contact the Vermont Department of Taxes directly: <https://tax.vermont.gov/property-owners> or 802-828-2865.

The first of four quarterly installments of your Property Tax is due and payable on or before Wednesday, September 15.

Thank you,  
Jenny Talke Munyak

## Milestones

Please [send in](#) the major events in your life: a birth, a death, a marriage, new job, or graduation. We will list them here. If you send a longer announcement, we may need to edit for space but will do our best to keep the tone.

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## Community Calendar 2022

It's time to (re)subscribe to the Community Calendar! The "birthday calendar" is a long-standing tradition and lists many residents' birthdays as well as notices of the town's boards and committee regular meetings. Subscribers have the option of including family members' birthdays and anniversaries. Advertising sponsors underwrite the production costs of the calendar, and their ads highlight many of the businesses in town.

New in town and don't know what we're talking about? Stop in at the library and we will show you this year's calendar. You are welcome to take it home as a welcome gift, while supplies last.

Watch FPF or your email inbox for our new google forms with links to Paypal to make it super easy to sign up. Or, use the [re-order form](#) between July & August in the current calendar to place your order. Calendars are \$8 before September 24 (\$10 after). Birthday and anniversary listings are included in price (optional but strongly encouraged).

Advertising sponsors: Please support the Middletown Springs Community Calendar with your pre-paid ad block, visible for all 12 months on the calendar border. Include your family's birthdays and anniversaries on your complimentary copy of the calendar.

The final deadline for all submissions is September 24, 2021.

The calendar helps strengthen our community and the funds raised are used to support the town library, its collection and programming.

Thank you,

Kristal Hier, Kelley Beckwith, Clare Heitkamp,  
Haley Kenyon, and Beth Miller (Library Trustees)



## Last Call for the Town Directory

The Town Directory is only as complete and as accurate as you help make it.

If you have not done so already, now is the time to submit additions or corrections to the town phone directory. If you are new in town and don't have the current directory, stop by the town office or the library to pick one up. And then, send in your information!

**RESIDENTIAL phone listings & changes:** submit your name, street/road, and phone number [online](#) or contact: Pat ([Ladyh@vermontel.net](mailto:Ladyh@vermontel.net)/235-2421) or Kimberly ([kimberly.bushnell@icloud.com](mailto:kimberly.bushnell@icloud.com)/235-9626).

**Free! BUSINESS & SERVICES listings:** submit the business name, your name, up to 6 words of description, and phone number for your Middletown Springs-based business or service listing [online](#) or contact Leslie ([lsilver@vermontel.net](mailto:lsilver@vermontel.net)/235-2335) or Kathleen ([kbf44@icloud.com](mailto:kbf44@icloud.com)/235-2131).

**Time is of the essence: please do it today!**

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## Mark Your Calendar!



August is a gentle reminder for not doing a single thing from your new year resolution for seven months and not doing it for the next five.

- Anonymous

## Become A Better Composter!



Thetford Elementary School Hot Compost  
(photo credit: Cat Buxton, Master Composter)

Composting is about recycling organic material back to the soil in a usable form. It's also about reawakening our awareness of the value of healthy soil in the food web. Composting is practical, convenient, and inexpensive. The Vermont Master Composter Course, September 10 - November 12, 2021, is offered online with a flexible asynchronous option.

This training course offers an in-depth study of backyard composting. UVM Master Gardeners and others interested in home, school, and community composting who take this course will learn about the many different ways to turn food scraps and yard trimmings into compost for healthier, nutrient-rich soil.

The course fee \$50 (in-state)/\$150 (out-of-state) includes all materials. More info or to enroll visit <https://www.uvm.edu/extension/mastergardener/master-composter-program>.

For more information, contact: Beret Halverson at [beret.halverson@uvm.edu](mailto:beret.halverson@uvm.edu).





## Calendar of Events

Regular Meetings	Schedule	Location	Contact Person
Conservation Commission	2nd Thurs /TBA	TBA	Elizabeth Cooper (235-1406)
Fire Dept. Training	Every Tues /6:30 pm	Firehouse	Joe Castle (235-2160)
Friends of the Library (FOL)	2nd Wed / 7 pm	Library	Ashley Fioretti (235-3000)
Historical Society	1st Thurs / 7 pm	MSHS	David Wright (235-2376)
Library Trustees	4th Wed / 7 pm	Library	Kristal Hier (235-1297)
Planning Commission	1st Mon /	Town Office	Hilary Solomon (235-1115)
Selectboard	2nd & 4th Thurs / 7pm	Town Office	Terry Redfield (235-2084)
Town Facilities Planning	1st & 3rd Thurs / 7 pm	Town Office	Terry Redfield (235-2084)
Wells Springs School Board	1st Wed	MSSES/WES	Meredith Morgan (235-2059)

## Stuffed Animal Sleepover 2021

Nearly twenty stuffed animals slept over at the library this year. Pizza, games, and lots of story books finally tuckered them all out. They were wide awake and playing hide 'n' seek in the bookshelves when their humans returned the next morning in time for the Teddy Bear Breakfast Story Hour.



## Town Newsletter

Lots of information in a snippet & list format, plus a Calendar of Events. No ads, articles, or minutes.

This supplements and enhances the Town website & Front Porch Forum (FPF) and will serve the needs of those who don't regularly use computers.

Digital copies are available as a PDF. The PDF is posted on FPF and the Town website or is sent free via email to those who sign up. It is also available in hard copy, delivered by USPS, to those who subscribe for \$6 a year postage. Copies are posted at the Town Office, Grant's Village Store, and the Library.

## Submit News & Events to:

Middletown Springs Public Library  
[middletownspringslibrary@gmail.com](mailto:middletownspringslibrary@gmail.com)  
 PO Box 1206  
 Middletown Springs, VT 05757

Deadline: 25<sup>th</sup> of the month

## Front Porch Forum

Join Front Porch Forum to know what is happening between issues of the middleTOWN NEWSletter. It's free. It's local. And it's friendly.

Check it out at <https://frontporchforum.com/>.